

THE EVENING STAR,
With Sunday Morning Edition.
WASHINGTON.
TUESDAY.....July 28, 1914
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The Evening Star Newspaper Company.
Business Office, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue.
New York Office: Tribune Building.
Chicago Office: 222 North Dearborn St.
European Office: 2 Regent St., London, England.

The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 4 cents per month; daily only, 25 cents per month; Sunday only, 20 cents per month. It may be sent by mail, or telephone Mail 2440. Collection is made by carrier at the end of each month.

Payable in advance by mail, postage prepaid: Daily, Sunday included, one month, \$6.00; three months, \$17.00; six months, \$32.00; one year, \$58.00. Sunday only, one month, \$3.00; three months, \$8.00; six months, \$15.00; one year, \$28.00. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C.

For information to avoid delays on account of personal absence from the office, the Editor should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to the Editor or the Editor of the Business Department, according to the nature of the communication.

War Clouds Grow Darker.

Today's developments in the European war situation are distinctly unfavorable, though they do not necessarily signify the precipitation of a general conflict which the world is dreading. Germany has declined to join the proposed conference at London by means of which Sir Edward Grey, the British minister of foreign affairs, hoped to check the troops around Serbia, and Austria and prevent its spread to the involvement of other powers. Austria has at the same time refused to submit the question to such a conference and continues in its war work by advancing its troops into Serbia, at the same time delivering a formal declaration of war and announcing that no present submission by Serbia to the original demands will be acceptable. These two refusals clearly indicate a co-operative spirit between Germany and Austria.

Germany and Austria have in fact assumed at the beginning when Austria presented its demand for a complete Serbian surrender. The only fact that weakens this assumption of Austro-German understanding is that Emperor William was cruising around the North Cape when the ultimatum was presented and was brought back to Berlin by urgent summons when the situation became dangerously involved. It is, however, asserted that the emperor knew in advance of the ultimatum and had before departure warned Russia against interference.

Hope still remains, however, that through international intervention the conflict may be prevented or at the least restrained. Austria has been continuing its endeavors in London, having received favorable replies from France and Italy and indications that in certain circumstances Russia will join such an international movement. But the participation of Russia in a mediatory effort is discounted to a large extent by Germany's refusal. These are the two powers upon which the issue of peace or war hangs.

With orders given for the mobilization of the Russian troops and the German navy it would appear certain that both powers are preparing for conflict and it will require the most skillful diplomacy to prevent an encounter. Russia's position in the matter is one of extreme difficulty in that she is morally pledged to the Slavic peoples to protect them from Germanic and Austrian aggressions and she cannot well afford to abstain from the role of guardian by the desertion of Serbia at this juncture. To agree now to restrict the war between Austria and Serbia means nothing less than to permit the conquest of the smaller state, which will, if accomplished, strike a mortal blow at the Slavic peoples and destroy Russian prestige in southeastern Europe. On the other hand intervention in behalf of Serbia means a general European war involving all the major powers, save possibly England.

The Government and Retail Trade.

The protest by the Retail Merchants' Association of this city to Postmaster Proctor of Washington against the practice of officially advertising rural dealers in food supplies whose products can be obtained through the parcel post raises the question as to the propriety of the government undertaking such a propaganda. This work is being done by the post office in co-operation with the Housekeepers' Alliance of this District, an organization formed for the purpose of lowering the cost of living by the adoption of economies and the discovery of cheaper markets. Against such an endeavor no objection can be raised and the end to which the alliance is aiming is altogether praiseworthy. It is, however, doubtful whether the government should take a hand so specifically in forwarding the trade of individual producers by the official publication of names and addresses.

The merchants of this city cannot with logic object to the use of the parcel post by consumers for obtaining foodstuffs at a cheaper rate than obtain here, but they do object to the United States, in addition to supplying a medium of transportation, entering upon a work of publicity which, now confined to farm products that find a market in the cities, can be easily extended to other lines and commodities. The official publication of the post office can be made very useful in the giving of general advice as to the use of the parcel post to bring the consumer and the source of supply closer together, by means of educational suggestions as to methods of packing, etc., but to go beyond this point and in official bulletins to print the names of producers would seem to be just the step over the line that makes the government a gratuitous advertising medium and brings it almost into the field of retail traffic, a departure that can easily lead to abuses and conditions that will seriously disturb business conditions throughout the country. It is to be hoped that the protest of the Washington merchants will lead to a careful consideration of this whole matter by the postal authorities.

The Jones Incident at least gave rise to personal correspondence as admirable in sentiment as it was elegant in style.

Party and Patronage.

The democratic members of the House from New York are fighting not so much for patronage as for their very lives. Patronage has its value, and they want their share. Politics in New York is of a thoroughly "practical" kind. A shepherd must consider his flock, and see that the pasturage is nourishing. But the larger question before these democratic leaders relates to a confessed purpose on the part of certain of the President's friends to put them out of business, and put into their places men altogether subservient to administration influences. In other words, there is a movement to disrupt the present democratic organization in

the Empire state, and form one under the aegis of the White House.

Collector Malone seems to be the head of the movement. Mayor Mitchell is not a member of his party, but his subordinates in the city government are helping. But Mr. Malone, young, ambitious, pushing, and twice recognized by the President—first in an appointment to a place in the State Department, and then in appointment to his present place—is the most active advocate of a new local democracy. He denounces the old democracy, and it him, and the question of the hour relates to how far, at all, the administration is backing him.

There are complaints on the subject of patronage from other quarters. Some Pennsylvania democrats are hungry, and inquisitive about pie. The local distributors and the distribution are not to their liking, and their dissatisfaction is reaching the White House. Ordinarily, Pennsylvania would not be in the democratic calculation, and would not be now except for the bull moose demonstration. Mr. Roosevelt is the only democratic hope. If Mr. William Phillips can reduce the protection note sufficiently, Representative Palmer, whom the President is supporting, may be elected senator, and have opportunity to vote for still lower tariff rates when the Underwood law is taken up for revision.

Will patronage, of itself, turn the scale anywhere? Assuming that the President is in a pleasant mood toward the politicians at first—and as election day approaches he seems to be—he can be at this day their wishes so as to save such as are threatened in their campaigns, and materially improve prospects for another democratic House?

Maine.

In the news from Maine there are two items of much interest. One is that the Panama canal tolls question is under discussion in the campaign, and the other is that the democratic national committee is pouring money into the state.

The tolls question is "double-barreled" in Maine. Repeal of the law exempting American coastwise ships from canal duty hit the shipbuilding industry of the state a severe blow. Hope was that by the encouragement offered in the exemption law the Maine industry would greatly benefit. There is much resentment on that score at the President's course.

Then there is the same resentment felt in Maine as elsewhere respecting the influence that controlled the President. Many believe they were of foreign character, tracing to the Canadian railroads, and through them to the British foreign office. This has been vigorously denied in the President's behalf, but nevertheless the belief persists, and enters into the Maine campaign, and will enter into other campaigns later. It is giving the democratic leaders much concern.

If the democrats "are pouring money into Maine" where are they finding it? Who are the "angels"? The railroad magnates are not enamored of the party. Manufacturers are in a blue funk, and caterpillars and army worms yonder. More than once, the republican party has been tried and convicted on the same counts in a long indictment. "Angels" in politics, like "angels" in the show business, must believe there is something in the venture for them. They do not play the role for fun, funny as the role sometimes is.

Who then with money in their purses are subscribing to the democratic campaign in Maine? What is there in it for them? What do they stand to win if the democrats carry Maine, and on the strength of the victory hearten the party elsewhere for November and carry the country then?

The story is not persuasive. Your political "angel" as a rule is canny. He will take a chance, but he must see the chance. He knows what is expected of him, and also knows the value of money, and he must be "shown" before he "pours" his money into any campaign in any quarter. If the democrats are relying on money they have no ground for hope in Maine.

It is easy enough to recall a diplomat who has expressed himself in a way to invite criticism. But when a king puts his foot in it, some ingenuity is required to relieve the situation.

The report that Richard Croker will return to New York sounds like an effort to modernize that good old Rip Van Winkle story.

Mr. La Follette is not exerting himself very seriously in reading people out of his particular wing of the progressive party. The official publication of the post office can be made very useful in the giving of general advice as to the use of the parcel post to bring the consumer and the source of supply closer together, by means of educational suggestions as to methods of packing, etc., but to go beyond this point and in official bulletins to print the names of producers would seem to be just the step over the line that makes the government a gratuitous advertising medium and brings it almost into the field of retail traffic, a departure that can easily lead to abuses and conditions that will seriously disturb business conditions throughout the country. It is to be hoped that the protest of the Washington merchants will lead to a careful consideration of this whole matter by the postal authorities.

The Irish Crisis.

The postponement of the home rule question by the British ministry is doubtless wise in view of the serious strain now existing in Ireland resulting from the conflict Sunday between nationalist volunteers and the royal troops. To attempt to settle the present gravely complex question at this juncture would probably precipitate a crisis. By postponement the government gives time for the cooling of passions aroused to fever heat by the so-called massacre of Dublin. It is most unfortunate for the government that the Irish will not wait until the incident occurred at virtually the critical juncture in the home rule adjustment. One might almost believe that the endeavor to land arms was deliberately timed to cause a conflict that would halt all negotiations for the amendment of the home rule bill to the end of a satisfactory exclusion of Ulster from its operations. If it was not designed thus it was certainly most untimely as the general situation was affected.

Incidentally T. R. will be tempted to remind Mr. Barnes that the introduction of the libel suit into current controversy is by no means an original idea.

A homicide trial involving celebrities in France must make the regular theatrical season in Paris seem comparatively dull.

Some statesmen look on a call for testimony from Roosevelt on any subject as equivalent to extending him an invitation to make a campaign speech.

In comparing the past with the present various railroad managers are tempted to feel that it is better to discriminate than to be discriminated against.

A time must eventually come when the announcement that Europe is on the verge of war will fail to create a ripple of surprise.

Huerta cannot wholly escape a certain curiosity as to whether some of Mexico's government history might not be found in his bank book.

Villa and Carranza continue to regard each other with suspicion as patriots and reformers.

It was one thing to discover the Avenue of the Presidents, quite another to keep it on the map.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

An Eye for John.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. McKina, "I don't think the garden is a bit pretty."

"Why, that is a first-rate garden," "The color scheme would be much nicer if you had hired some Paris green to match the cabbage."

Cautioned.

"Hey!" shouted the sheriff, "don't you know you're exceeding the speed limit."

"How do you know?" "Cause you're ridin' an' I'm walkin'."

Any automobile that passes a sheriff who wants a lift to the next town is going rather reckless."

A Policeman's Confession.

Although I've taken many a look I never saw a handsome crook. With manner sweet And style complete, As pictured in a story book.

The Arrival.

"I would have you understand," said the actor who was talking of salary for next season, "that I have arrived."

"I guess that's right," answered the manager, who was once a railroad conductor; "and, having arrived, here is where you get off."

Preparation.

"Have you prepared the speeches you are going to deliver to your constituents when you get home?"

"Not entirely," replied Senator Sorghum. "I have written 'laughter' and 'applause' at proper intervals, but I'm lost if I know how to lead up to them."

A Busy Factory.

There's one form of industry certain to prosper.

A profitless sort of renown—The fool factory's running the same as of yore.

However the others shut down. The novice is seeing how far he can swim And some joker starts panics for fun; The gun-pointing friend—we are hearing from him.

As the factory continues to run. Somewhere there's a person still rocking the boat.

Somewhere there's a party sedate Who is writing a highly affectionate note Whose contents the girl will relate. All else must have time for inspection and care.

As the old world keeps thumping away; But the fool factory never needs rest or repair.

Though it's running by night and by day.

Ocean Flight Postponed.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Lieut. Porte has concluded to wait until October before making an effort to cross the sea in a hydro-aeroplane, and for the soundest of reasons. It appears that calculations of efficiency were at fault and that the America by no means comes up to expectations. The crucial matter of getting out of the water has been settled, but only by adding another engine. It is expected that this extra propeller could be used only for lifting purposes, but it offers so much resistance while the machine is in the air that in commission, which means the consumption of more gasoline than counted upon, more than could be carried for the entire trip, and the plan of establishing a relay ship in midocean with supplies of gasoline has been abandoned as impracticable.

Many persons look upon the scheme as utterly foolhardy, and consider that such a venture would be better than even for the cause. In the other four states, the night is likely to be hot and close. However, when the strike, there can be no doubt that the suffrage cause is gaining ground everywhere.

The Suffrage Campaign.

From the Chicago Journal.

Suffragists are planning an extra strenuous campaign in seven states—North and South Dakota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, and Ohio. In Montana and Nevada, suffrage is pretty sure to win. The western tradition of giving women anything they want is so strong in those states that nothing is likely to stand in its way. In Nebraska, the chances would seem to be better than even for the cause. In the other four states, the night is likely to be hot and close.

However, when the strike, there can be no doubt that the suffrage cause is gaining ground everywhere.

Souvenir-Hunting Vandals.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

An American tourist has been arrested in Danfries, Scotland, on a charge of theft, the specific allegation being that he took a brass handle from an antique bureau in the Robert Burns cottage. News dispatches telling of the arrest say that the American's friends explained that he was merely an overzealous souvenir hunter. If the man and what he is accused of doing, this plea in his behalf ought to increase the indictment from one of petty theft to one of grand larceny. There is no kind of vandalism more contemptible than that of the typical souvenir-hunting tourist.

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 - 25c Williams' Shaving Stick.....18c
 - 10c Jergen's Violet Glycerine Soap....3 for 19c
 - 35c Eff. Sodium Phosphate.....19c
 - 10c Toilet Paper Rolls.....4 for 25c
 - 25c Spiro Powder, for perspiration.....19c
 - 25c Euthymol Tooth Paste.....13c
 - 25c Mentholatum.....14c
 - 25c Cuticura Soap.....18c
 - \$1 Mayr's Stomach Remedy.....79c
 - \$1 Listerine.....59c
 - 20c Swansdown Face Powder.....11c
 - 10c Palm Olive Soap.....4 for 25c
 - 25c Lyon's Tooth Powder.....15c
 - 50c Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur.....32c
 - 25c Morse's Indian Root Pills.....16c
 - 25c Tyree's Antiseptic Powder.....15c
 - 15c Babcock's Corylopiis Talcum.....12c
 - 25c Packer's Tar Soap.....14c
 - 50c Hays' Hair Health.....34c
 - 75c Aspirin Tablets.....100 for 50c
 - 10c Diamond Dyes, each.....8c
 - 25c Bromo Seltzer.....16c
 - 10c Velvet Hand Cleaner.....6c
 - 25c Propyhtol Baccillicide.....16c
 - 15c Violet Glycerine Soap.....10c, 3 for 25c
 - 15c Lucerne Verbena Round Soap 10c, 3 for 25c
 - 25c Rosemary Balm, for sunburn.....19c
 - 35c Oil Citronella (for mosquitoes), 4 oz....21c
- Ivory Soap, Seven Cakes for 25c

No Prices Are Less Than Those of The Christiani Drug Co. 426 9th St. N.W.

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My Patent Suction Teeth, \$5 Will Not Slip or Drop
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\$3, \$4 & \$5

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Open Every Evening, Hours—8 A.M. to 8 P.M.; Sunday Hours, 10 to 4.
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Largest and Most Thoroughly Equipped Parlors in Washington.
Appointments May Be Made by Telephone.

2.85 Broken Sizes.
Men's 5.00 Oxfords—Tan, Black, White, 3.85.
Men's "Banister" Oxfords, one style of Black and one of Tan, 4.85. All other styles of "Banister" Oxfords, 5.35.
Boys' 4.00 Oxfords—sizes 2 1/2 to 4 1/2, 2.35.

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ROUND \$11.00 TRIP
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Tomorrow's Best Bargain.
Dresses Bunched at \$1.19 for Choice.
THE GREATER PALAIS ROYAL
A. LISNER. Daily Hours—8:15 to 5. G STREET.

The August Sales of Furniture

The Following, Clipped From Last Year's Star, Equally Applies to This Year's Sale.

Coming Tomorrow

Washington Philadelphia New York
The August sales of Furniture and other home needs are now looked forward to in the homes of hundreds of thousands. It is because the fact is now almost universally recognized—that August is the bargain month of the year.

The Greater Palais Royal Furniture chief is lately from Grand Rapids, the world's furniture center, and reports that he had eyes and ears open, that, shoulder to shoulder with representatives of the great retail establishments of Philadelphia and New York, he has bought as they bought, the identical furniture at the identical prices.

Remember—Even the "King" Is Fallible.
Kings may think they are not as other men—but we all know they are. There's no magic in furniture. While, of course, there is furniture good, indifferent, bad, the good is not and cannot be confined to any one or more kings. By the way—the great corporations creating furniture are themselves kings, but commercial enough to recognize no difference in the dollars of this merchant or that.

Clothing Again Reduced in Prices—and Finally

—To Create Greater Room for the Coming Sale of Furniture and Other Home Needs.

Lingerie
Combination Garments, Princess Slips, Gowns, Skirts, Corset Covers, Drawers and Chemises. The remaining summer stock bunched into six lots.
Dresses
Thousands of summer dresses and hundreds of suits are bunched at the following reduced prices—on third and basement floors:

Look for the Tables With Red Star Tickets
Visit All Departments On All Five Floors and Learn That Red Stars Mean Best Bargains.

In the New Boys' Shop
\$3.65 39c 59c
\$7.00 Suits. \$1.00 Hats. \$1.00 Blouses.
Bunching the better garments and finally reduced prices. For instance—the \$5.00 to \$7.00 Suits are bunched at \$3.65 for choice. This means that tomorrow's visitors will carry off the \$7.00 Suits—the English Norfolk styles of high-grade imported cassimeres, worsteds and homespun. Come early tomorrow—and find all sizes from 7 to 18 years.

The Men's Shop
July Clearing Sale.
Bunching many little lots now—and reducing prices to less than ever.
\$1.05 For \$2.00 and \$2.50 Athletic Union Suits, of linen and English longcloth.
69c For Silk Athletic Shirts and Drawers, white only.
29c For 50c "True Shape" Socks, pure thread silk; black and colors.
53c For \$1.00 and \$1.25 grades of "Shedaker" Union Suits; all sizes here tomorrow morning.
25c For this season's 50c Washable Four-In-Hand Ties.
35c For choice of various makes of \$1.00 Athletic Underwear, including sleeves and buttonless.

The Greater Palais Royal
A. LISNER. G STREET